

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 CEQ-01 CIAE-00 OFA-01 COME-00

DODE-00 EB-07 EPA-01 INR-07 IO-10 L-03 NSF-01 NSC-05

NSAE-00 PM-04 USIA-06 OES-03 SS-15 SP-02 FEAE-00

LAB-04 SIL-01 DOTE-00 FMC-01 CG-00 DLOS-04 CU-02

HEW-02 PA-01 PRS-01 /100 W
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R 201130Z AUG 75

FM AMCONSUL THESSALONIKI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2421

INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE THESSALONIKI 0502

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ECEM, SENV, PGOV, ELAB, GR

SUBJECT: THESSALONIKI PORT REOPENS BUT ETHYL PROBLEMS CONTINUE

REF: THESSALONIKI 501, 499, 488

1. IN MEETING EVENING AUGUST 19, THOSE THESSALONIKI STEVEDORES WHO HAD REMAINED ON STRIKE VOTED TO RETURN TO WORK AUGUST 20, EXCEPT FOR PIER 5 WHERE ETHYL FACILITIES ARE LOCATED. TO OBTAIN THIS AGREEMENT, PORT ADMINISTRATION UNDERTOOK TO SATISFY PRIOR TO AUGUST 28 WORKERS' DEMANDS FOR COMPENSATION FOR LOST PAY RESULTING FROM THE STRIKE, AS WELL AS OTHER LONG PENDING LABOR ISSUES. ADMINISTRATION ALSO AGREED TO EXPEDITIOUS AND FINAL REMOVAL OF ETHYL FACILITIES FROM PORT AND EMPTYING OF ETHYL'S STORAGE TANKS BY END OF AUGUST.

2. THIS STEP SOLVES IMMEDIATE PROBLEM OF GETTING OTHER SECTORS OF PORT BACK IN FULL OPERATION. ETHYL PLANT, HOWEVER, WILL NOT BE ABLE RESUME OPERATIONS WITHOUT USE OF ITS
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PORT FACILITIES AND COMPANY OFFICIALS ARE EXPLORING

WHAT FUTURE STEPS TO TAKE. PLANT DIRECTOR TOLD US TODAY
PORT ADMINISTRATION'S PLEDGE TO HAVE TANKS EMPTIED
OBVIOUSLY DEPENDENT ON AVAILABILITY AND LOADING OF
TANKER SPACE TO REMOVE PRODUCT.

3. MEANWHILE, GROUP OF ETHYL EXPERTS FROM U.S. STARTING
TO WORK ON PROBLEM, AND PORT DIRECTOR DIMITRIOS VALALAS
(WHO HAS JUST RETURNED FROM HIGHLY SUCCESSFUL IV GRANT
TRAVEL IN U.S.) TOLD CONGEN THIS MORNING THAT MINISTERS
OF INDUSTRY, LABOR AND MERCHANT MARINE ARRIVING TOMORROW
TO STUDY ENTIRE PORT SITUATION ON THE SCENE.

4. LEAD POLLUTION ISSUE LIKELY TO REMAIN EMOTIONAL
ONE IN THESSALONIKI WITH MANY EXAGGERATED TALES
CIRCULATING. MOST FANCIFUL WE HAVE HEARD CONCERNED
RESIDENT WHO MAINTAINED THAT LEAD IN ATMOSPHERE
WAS SO ABUNDANT THAT IT SOLIDIFIED AND BROKE ONE
OF HIS WINDOWS. WE WILL REPORT FURTHER DEVELOPMENTS
AS THEY OCCUR.
BRENNAN

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Message Attributes

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